

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Amendment is presented in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b) and MPEP § 1453 governing amendments in reissue applications. Amendment of the claims is requested, as follows:

22. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly for use in manufacturing molded thermoplastic containers comprising:

two mold shells each containing a half-impression of a substantial portion of the container to be molded;

two mold shell holders each defining a cavity for receiving each said respective mold shell such that each said respective mold shell is in at least partial mutual thermal-conduction contact with its respective shell holder, said shell holders being shaped to be supported by two mold carriers made in the form of enveloping structures movable one with respect to the other; and

at least two axial positioning assemblies by which said mold shells are fixed in an axial direction with respect to said mold shell holders.

23. (Currently Amended) The mold assembly of Claim 22, wherein each of said at least two axial positioning assemblies comprises at least one meshing male coupling member disposed on at least one of said mold shells and mold shell holders, and at least one complementary meshing female coupling member disposed on at least one of said mold shells and mold shell holders.

24. The mold assembly of Claim 22, wherein said mold shell holders further comprise a number of internal fluid pipes and connections for the circulation of cooling and/or heating fluids.

25. The mold assembly of Claim 22, wherein at least one of said mold shells and/or mold shell holders define at least one cavity at the interface between said mold shells and mold shell holders into which pressurized fluid suitable for maintaining the sealed closures of the mold assembly may be interposed during the molding process.

26. The mold assembly of Claim 23, wherein said meshing male and female coupling members further comprise a system of one or more mating ribs and grooves in said mold shells and mold shell holders.

27. (Currently Amended) An article for use in manufacturing molded thermoplastic containers comprising:

a mold shell containing an impression of a substantial portion of a container; and at least two coupling members by which said mold shell can be fixed in an axial direction with respect to a mold shell holder,

said shell holder defining a cavity for receiving said mold shell such that said mold shell is in at least partial mutual thermal-conduction contact with said shell holder, said shell holder being shaped to be supported by one of a pair of mold carriers made in the form of enveloping structures movable one with respect to the other.

28. (Currently Amended) The article of Claim 27, wherein said impression further comprises a neck portion, a sidewall portion, and a base portion.

29. (Currently Amended) The article of Claim 27, wherein each of said at least two coupling members further comprises either a groove or a rib disposed about the exterior surface of said mold shell.

30. (Currently Amended) The article of Claim 29, wherein said groove or rib is proximate a neck portion of said mold shell.

31. (Currently Amended) The article of Claim 27, further comprising:

a parting face adjacent a generally mating face of said shell holder; and at least one clamping surface projecting from said parting face.